

Senator Slap, Representative Elliott, and Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee,

My name is Christine Japely; I am a full time and tenured English professor of 23 years at Norwalk Community College, and I fully support HB 5300, *An Act Requiring Legislative Approval For the Merger or Closing of Institutions Within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities and Prohibiting the Consolidation of the Regional-Technical Colleges*. The messy incompetence of the entire consolidation effort over the past eleven years has badly impacted standards and student performance at the community colleges. Faculty voices are ignored and there is virtually no real shared governance. A tiny handful of students do very well, but the great majority slide through with little work and little oversight. System Office management and the BOR pressure deans and faculty to pass all students and give A's and B's freely. Managers have actively and progressively reduced developmental level (remedial) courses; soon there will be none at all. This has radically dumbed down our courses and led to grotesque grade inflation. I can no longer teach at the true college level; students do not have the necessary reading and writing skills. English 101 now at the community college level is basically equivalent to a 6th grade English course at a mid-range suburban school in CT. Let me give you an example of a short piece of writing by a student AFTER having received an "A" in English 101/College composition at the community colleges:

What I do in you free time? Everyone has different forms to spent her or his free time. I spent more time and others things that read, but I always try to read some articles. However, I read a lot when I have classes in the college. I am not a good reader, I thing it is not good to my vocabulary, but I always try to change my main. I understand when you read the books we have a good vocabulary and understand grammatic roles. I read many books when I studied in the Obstetric program. All the books told about baby and mother. (end student excerpt)

To repeat: this is work by a student AFTER having passed ENG101 College Composition with an A. And there are hundreds of other examples just as disheartening as this one.

The pressure to pass students and give them high grades and little work comes directly from the System Office, and the out-of-touch BOR blithely rubber stamps everything the System Office comes up with. This nightmare has been going on for years. The consolidation is a travesty which has hurt our community colleges and is in fact in the process of completely destroying them. The bloated System Office is out of touch; please stop this consolidation and save our community colleges. Bring faculty back into the governance loop before it's too late. Please support HB 5300.

Please contact me if you would like more information.

Sincerely,
Christine A. Japely
Professor of English/Norwalk Community College
cjapely@norwalk.edu